73.

Mr. Smyth's Diſcovery

OF THE

Popiſh Sham-Plot

IN

IRELAND,

Contrived to Correſpond with their

Sham-PLOT

IN

ENGLAND.

By which it appears, that it has been the joynt Deſign of the Papiſts in both Kingdoms, to make People believe their Real Plot to be a Sham-Plot, and their Sham-Plot a Real Plot.

Neceſſary for the Information of all His Majeſties Proteſtant Subjects.

The Diſcourſe that paſt between one Father St. Laurence *and* William Smyth, *Gent. at the ſaid* Smyth's *Chamber, on or about the 7th Day of* July, 1681. *in the* Kings-Arms *Marſhalſea, in* Dublin, *VIZ,*

AFTER many diſcourſes between him and me, in which he ſeemed to be compaſſionately concerned for my having been a priſoner ſo long (which I told him was nigh Four years both in *Waterford* and here,) he adding; ſaid, he much lamented my misfortunes, by reaſon that my face promiſed that I was no ordinary perſon, and that there could be no greater torment in the World than for a generous Soul to be debarred of liberty, and pent up in a cloſe, ſtincking and loathſome confinement. He went on, ſay-

ing, I would ſoon procure you as much Money as will ſet you at liberty and put you in a good equipage, if you will condeſcend to ſome things to be by me propoſed; In anſwer whereunto, I ſaid I ſhould willingly embrace the offer, provided it was both legal and poſſible; and ſo bad him continue his diſcourſe, who replyed, you muſt Firſt take an Oath of Secrecy, it being a matter of Weight and Conſequence, and without which he durſt not acquaint me with it. After a ſhort pauſe, I imagined by his preceding diſcourſe that it might be ſome grand Deſign he had to inform me of, whereupon ſeeing me at a ſtand, he then ſaid, you ſeem to be ſcrupulous of what I endeavour for your enlargement; but be aſſured, if you will be rul'd by me, you are and ſhall be a happy Man; and ſo he drew out of his pocket a ſmall Bible or Teſtament, and adminiſtred to me this following Oath, *viz.*

I *Conjure you by our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, by his bitter death and paſſion, by the Bleſſed Virgin* Mary, *and all the Bleſſed and Holy Saints and Angels, by the Holy Mother the Church, by this Sacred Scripture, and as you hope for Salvation, if you do not act what I ſhall by and by tell you, at leaſt that you keep it concealed during life without any Equivocation, Diſſimulation, or mental Reſervation, ſo help you God and all his Holy Saints.* Amen.

After this he ſaid you cannot but be ſenſible that the Church of *Rome* is the only Catholick, Apoſtolick, and unfeigned Church, and the Pope, being God's Vicegerent on earth, hath power to pardon and forgive all ſinners that are members of the ſaid Church, be their ſins never ſo great and heinous; I queſtion not but you believe all this, and that there is not, nay cannot be any Salvation for any one but ſuch as die in the Roman-Catholick faith, therefore conſequently whoever believes any other than what is allowed by the ſaid Church are not only Heriticks but damned to the pit of Hell, as being the juſt reward of their demerits; for as there is but one God ſo there is but one Church of which the Pope is Chriſt on earth. Now to ſwear any thing againſt any of thoſe Hereticks for the Catholick good is to do God ſervice, and that Oath being taken upon a Proteſtant Bible needs no ſcruple of conſcience nor inward remorſe, it being all one as to ſwear on an *Æſop's Fables*. Beſides, what you ſwear in the behalf of the Catholicks (eſpecially in theſe times) though never ſo falſe, yet by a power from the Pope to every Prieſt in Orders is fully, clearly and abſolutely pardoned and forgiven by their abſolution, after Confeſſion to any ſuch Prieſt. Now what I would have you to do, and whereby you ſhall obtain your liberty, is as followeth. *In primis*, you muſt ſwear that ſeveral Heretical Miniſters, *viz.* One Parſon *Jack* and Dr. *Harriſon*, ſince your being in Priſon here in *Dublin*, came to you and offered to pay your debts, and ſupport you with Money to carry on your deſigns, if you would make Affidavit as follows, and that they brought it to you in writing, and cauſed you to copy it out, and took the original along with them (*The words*) That there was a Popiſh Plot, and that they deſired you to ſwear that ſome Prieſts and others (naming any one that you know) told you that the Duke of *York* was ſo far concerned in the Plot as that he ſided with the Pope and French King, to introduce the French to invade the Kingdoms of *England* and *Ireland*, and to put the King to Death, and to murder all Proteſtants in his Majeſties Dominions, and to bring in the Popiſh Religion; and that they, the ſaid Hereticks, ſhould farther require you to ſay, that you have divers times heard Papiſts declare that they would bring it about to be a Presbyterian Plot, and ſo ſubborn Witneſſes againſt the Earl of *Shaftsbury* Firſt, and then againſt the Duke *Monmouth* and divers other Proteſtants, and bring their Heads to the Block. He farther ſaid, that the King would eaſily believe this Information, by reaſon he would gladly have any occaſion to deſtroy them, as being the People that murdered his Father. Alſo he ſaid, you muſt ſwear that the ſaid Miniſters, *viz.* *Jack* and Dr. *Harris*, or *Harriſon*, called his Majeſty Papiſt, that he deſigned the Diſtruction of his Subjects, and to eſtabliſh the Popiſh Religion in his Dominions, and that they plainly perceived his intention was to bring

bring his said Subjects under a Tyrannical Government, and that they and the rest of their Brethren intended e're this time to have had him (meaning the King) in their power, and to have disposed of him at their pleasure, nay to have made him shorter by the head, if he had not condescended to all their designs; but failing in their designs were resolved to spend their lives and fortunes to make it out a Popish Plot, by which (said the above Father) we will make the world believe there was no Popish Plot but a Presbyterian Plot, and they will be utterly confounded, and we cleared, and all Presbyterians and other like Dissenters, be accused not only of the said Plot, but be reputed guilty of all the Blood that hath been spilt. If you will undertake this, you need not doubt but that you shall have the Prayers of the Catholick Church to prosper you; and besides other Witnesses shall be procured to second this your Information without any show or colour of suspicion, if by Gold and Silver they may be obtained.

Further, said he, the Catholick Lords in the *Tower* have already given large sums of Money, to subborn Witnesses against the Earl of *Shaftsbury*; forty will appear against him, and see how it is likely to go with him; and you will be assisted beyond expectation; for we are all resolved to make it a Presbyterian Plot; and it is as easie for you to carry on this business, as it is for you to say the *Pater-Noster*. So I told him I did not know the above Parson *Jack* or Dr. *Harris*, or *Harrison*. Then quoth he, you must write to them, and in your Letters say, that you have been a leud and wicked Sinner, and that you have been a long time out of the way, and now, God touching you with an inward Remorse of Conscience, you desire them to come to you for Christ Jesus sake, to administer some Spiritual comfort to you, and you'l be sure to have them come to you, they being the notedst of their Function, where they are: And after they have been with you, and been seen with you by others in this House, it is enough for this business, and will turn to the ruin of themselves, and many thousands of them, whose Blood I hope to live to see spilt by the hands of the Catholicks; and I am certain, in three years time, things will be so effectually done, that there will not be a Protestant living in *England* or *Ireland*. After you have made this Affidavit to the King and Council, there shall be a large allowance, during your Life, given you; for the Pope, Jesuits, and our Clergy will contribute largely to any one that will prove so faithful, as to prosecute any thing in the like kind; and for your part, you will meet with no Opposition, but be credited, you being an *English-man*, and none in *England* knowing you to be a Catholick, wich you must always deny, and you will be dispensed with for your so doing. Moreover he would now take his leave, and leave me to consider of it, and that he expected I would give him an absolute answer the next morning, but I desired seven days time, which with much ado he consented to, putting me in mind, for my Souls sake, not to reveal it, if I would not do it; but said he, if you wll do it at the seven days end, after you have confessed and received the Holy Sacrament of Christ, to be true and just in this affair, you shall know from me more at large, and be at liberty, and have Money and Cloaths like a Gentleman: so he made a short *extempore* Prayer, exhorting me to a true performance, adding, how dangerous it would be for me to prove false, and so went away. But coming at the seven days end, I told him my Conscience could not do it: Well, said he, (after a deep sigh) you are damned to Eternity if you disclose it (which indeed I promised not to do) then he told me that they must get some other, for they had enough to do it at their command, and taking his leave, he bad me to send to him for any thing I wanted, and I should have it freely. I do acknowledge all this to be an unfeigned truth, and that I never saw or heard from the said *Jack* or Dr. *Harris*, alias *Harrison*, all my life long, but when I had spoken to one of my Fellow Prisoners, of this business, one Captain *Page*, being told of it, came to me, desiring this Relation: But I never saw them; yet it is true, I cannot be positive in the day of the Month, but God knows it is exact, as near as I can call to mind: And I declare to the World, there is nothing causes me to do this but a good Conscience, and to make known the obscure

and

and Villainous Crimes of the Papists. And for the Testimony of the Truth and satisfaction of the World, I hereunto set my hand and Seal, this 14th day of *September*, *Anno Dom.* 1681.

William Smyth.

Francis Cook, *George Harrison*, *Daniel Blackmore*, *John Page*, } Witnesses.

Elizabeth, the Wife of *John Welton*, Cordwainer, brought the above-named Father St. *Laurence* to me.

This Plot was contrived in the *Kings Arms* Prison, in *Dublin*, by Father St. *Laurence*, an *Irish* Secular Priest, and one *William Smyth*, an *English-man*, but a *Roman* Catholick, then Prisoner there, about the Month of *July*, 1681.

The Lord Primate and Council have this Information before them, and have examined the Priest, and committed him to safe Custody, the 17th of *September*, 1681.

FINIS.

LONDON, Printed for *R. Baldwin*, 1681.

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